

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

EXTENDING STRUCTURED SETTLEMENTS TO WORKERS' COMPENSATION

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 1997

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today, along with Mr. RAMSTAD and Mr. STARK and a broad group of my colleagues from the Ways and Means Committee from both sides of the aisle, to introduce this bill to extend structured settlements under section 130 of the Internal Revenue Code to workers' compensation.

I am a great believer in structured settlements. Structured settlements have been widely used in the tort area for many years to compensate tort victims who have suffered serious, long-term, often profoundly disabling injuries. A structured settlement provides the badly injured tort victim with important financial protections.

Under a structured settlement, the injured person receives damages in the form of a stream of periodic payments tailored to his or her specific future medical and basic living needs from a well-capitalized financial institution that assumes the liability from the defendant and funds the obligation with an annuity or U.S. Treasury obligations. Congress has adopted a series of special Internal Revenue Code rules in sections 130 and 104 to promote the use of structured settlements.

Extending these code section 130 structured settlement rules to the workers' compensation area would provide crucial financial security to workers who have suffered serious, long-term physical injuries. A seriously and permanently disabled worker who is to receive a stream of workers' compensation payments over the next 20 or 30 years has the same very real concerns as the tort victim over relying on the uncertain financial prospects of a self-insured employer which may no longer be in business a decade from now or a compensation carrier that is weak and threatens to become more so in the future. In some States structured settlements also would provide a means of resolving workers' compensation disputes that otherwise would be settled with a lump sum that could be prematurely dissipated by the injured worker.

Thus, extending the structured settlement tax rules to workers' compensation is fully consistent with the original purpose of code section 130 and merely adds a parallel class of physical injuries to that already covered by the statute.

The use of structured settlements in workers' compensation would be subject to the oversight of the States workers' compensation referee who would have to approve each section 130 structured settlement on a case-by-case basis as being in the best interest of the injured worker.

The Treasury Department has testified before the Ways and Means Committee in the

last Congress that Treasury does not oppose this proposal, reasoning that "[t]here appears to be no policy justification, apart from revenue considerations, for allowing less favorable tax treatment for work-related physical injury claims than other physical injury claims." The Joint Tax Committee estimated in the last Congress that the proposal would cost a total of only \$11 million over 5 years.

We look forward to consideration of this important legislation at the earliest possible opportunity.

RECOGNITION OF LUISA SINIPATA

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday May 1, 1997

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me today in commending Ms. Luisa Sinipata, a junior at Mercy High School in Burlingame and the recipient of the Congressional Youth Excellence Award in the 12th Congressional District of California.

Ms. Sinipata's contributions to our community are impressive. She coordinated publicity and entertainment for a recent neighborhood festival. She volunteered as a junior for the University of San Francisco's mock trials and as a child care volunteer at her church. Furthermore, as a member of the Peninsula YMCA Youth and Government Program, she has been an active promoter of San Mateo's teen curfew proposal, as well as an active participant in youth conferences.

In addition to this outstanding record of community service, Luisa has achieved an excellent academic record at Mercy High School. Luisa currently is taking courses in sociology and French at the College of San Mateo, in addition to her regular high school educational program. She has done this while working part time for a local San Mateo business.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in commending Ms. Luisa Sinipata for her outstanding service to our community and congratulating her for her academic achievements.

TRIBUTE TO PHILANTHROPIST ALICE PETERS

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 1997

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Alice Peters. Mrs. Peters has demonstrated, time and time again, the ability to raise the spirits of people in the Fresno, CA, community. I want to honor her today for her service to Fresno.

As noted in a recent edition of the Armenian General Benevolent Union [AGBU] magazine, Alice Peters' family moved to Lynn, MA, from

Bitlis in 1907. After hearing that more Bitlistsies were residing in the Fresno area, the family moved to Del Rey, a small farming town outside of Fresno. In 1943, she met and married Leon Peters, who was a farmer by day and sold pumps for water at night. Their business grew and became one of the Nation's premier winemaking machinery plants. Eventually, the business grew to be as large as 300 employees before the couple sold it to begin pursuing other interests.

Perhaps even more significant to the region than the wine-making machinery business was the formation of the Leon S. Peters Foundation in 1959. Today, this foundation, with Mrs. Peters as the board chairman, supports many different educational causes in both the Fresno community and the world. Locally, the foundation aids humanitarian endeavors and university scholarships. Foundation guidelines require the money be kept in Fresno to help students locally. Internationally, the foundation sends funding to various organizations throughout Armenia, including supporting scholarships for students studying at the American University of Armenia and funding to assist children at the Nork Children's Center.

Promoting education is not where the work of Alice Peters ends. As one of the leading philanthropists in Fresno, Mrs. Peters was instrumental in starting the Fresno Metropolitan Museum of Art, and also is a principle fundraiser for the Fresno Zoo and the Boy and Girl Scouts of America. Together, Mr. and Mrs. Peters have shaped Fresno from a once small farming town into one of the largest and most thriving cities in California.

Mr. Speaker, as an active member of the Fresno community, Alice Peters has contributed to the growth and cultivation of new ideas and accomplishments of its residents. Together, she and her husband have faced the challenges and enjoyed the successes of the world of business. In turn, they have given back to the community that has become so important in their lives. I ask my colleagues to join me in tribute to a woman who strives each day to make the Fresno community as fulfilling a place for others as it has been for her.

MORE UNFAIR COMPETITION: SUBSIDIZED BRIBERY

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 1997

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert for the RECORD an article in the International Herald Tribune that outlines Germany's and France's opposition to making foreign bribery a crime.

I think most Americans would be shocked to learn that in Germany and France, not only is bribery of foreign officials not illegal, it qualifies as a tax deduction! Meanwhile, American firms trying to do business abroad operate under our Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, which

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

makes bribery illegal and possibly punishable with a jail sentence.

This is yet another example of the unfair competition our firms face, Mr. Speaker, and we should be resolute in demanding that Germany, France, and other countries change their laws. This is absolutely critical to maintaining our industrial base, including our military industrial base in these times of declining defense budgets.

[From the International Herald Tribune]

FOREIGN BRIBERY SHOULD BE A CRIME

(By Reginald Dale)

WASHINGTON.—An American caught bribing a foreign official for commercial gain will be fined or jailed for violating U.S. law. Europeans who bribe the same official may well qualify for a tax deduction.

U.S. corporations are estimated to be losing contracts worth tens of billions of dollars because of corrupt practices by their competitors. It is hardly surprising that Washington is leading an aggressive campaign to crack down on international bribery and corruption.

What is surprising is that the campaign, dismissed as hopelessly naive and moralistic only a few years ago, is beginning to bear fruit.

At next month's ministerial meeting of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development in Paris, Washington hopes other industrial countries will commit themselves to making foreign commercial bribery a criminal offense, as the United States did in 1977.

Many developing and ex-Communist countries back the U.S. stand and are asking the major exporting nations to help them fight corruption.

The main holdouts are two close American allies, Germany and France. These two countries do not dispute that bribery is bad. Many international corporations say corruption is the main obstacle to business in places such as Russia, China and much of Southeast Asia.

Bribery, according to Alan P. Larson, a senior State Department official, denies developing countries access to the most efficient bidders, diverts funds that could have been spent on economic and social development, and corrupts fragile democratic institutions.

Washington is not too worried by the small sums often needed to persuade bureaucrats to do the jobs they are supposed to be doing anyway, such as issuing licenses or visas. The problem is big payments to induce an official to do something illegal—bribing a public employee to secure a contract is against the law all over the world.

Last year, Germany and France subscribed to a nonbinding OECD recommendation to end tax deductions for bribery abroad and agreed "in principle" to make it a criminal offense. The difficulty is persuading them to follow through. The two countries have not ended the tax deductibility, and they say they want to negotiate a binding international convention before criminalizing foreign bribery. Washington wants each OECD member simply to enact its own legislation next year.

France and Germany argue that without a watertight legal convention, other countries will cheat. This argument is "clearly a delaying tactic," says Frank Vogl, vice chairman of Transparency International, an independent group that monitors business corruption. Negotiating an international convention could take years.

But many Europeans also argue that U.S. military and political power gives American businesses an unfair advantage. Americans

say their country's leading role just as often sets them at a disadvantage—for example, when Washington puts pressure on China to improve its record on human rights and weapons proliferation and European governments seek commercial favors by keeping quiet.

The two issues are not comparable. A telephone call from President Bill Clinton is not the equivalent of a bribe—nor should it be an excuse for offering one.

The hope must be that European voters, increasingly disgusted by scandal and corruption in their own countries, will press governments to act on an international level. The European Union plans to criminalize bribery within the EU. That will have the bizarre effect of making it a criminal offense for a German, say, to bribe French officials but not Russian ones. Europeans, who pride themselves on their logic, must surely see the absurdity of that.

MEDICARE MEDICATION EVALUATION AND DISPENSING SYSTEM

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 1997

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, on March 20, I introduced The Medicare Medication Evaluation and Dispensing System Act of 1997 [MMEDS]—a bill calling for implementation of a computerized information management program to review prescriptions for Medicare beneficiaries both before and after they are dispensed.

A recent study appearing in the American Journal of Public Health provides another reason MMEDS should be passed this Congress. Based on their findings, the authors concluded: "Increased involvement by pharmacists and physicians in systematic drug utilization review is warranted". Overall, the study found inappropriate drug prescribing and utilization among the elderly living in board and care facilities. Depending on the criterion applied, between 20 percent and 25 percent of residents had at least one inappropriate prescription. Approximately a quarter of elderly residents received at least one inappropriate drug.

Board and care facilities provide an alternative to nursing homes for the elderly; the homes usually do not provide nursing care, but assistance with activities of daily living—including drug management. Most board and care homes do not use pharmacists for drug-utilization review and do not computerize prescription drug data in a readily retrievable manner. Thus MMEDS is especially necessary to help bring an end to inappropriate drug prescribing for the elderly living in these facilities.

I would like to insert excerpts from the March, 1997, study on Inappropriate Drug Prescriptions for Elderly Residents of Board and Care Facilities into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

[From the American Journal of Public Health, Mar. 1997]

INAPPROPRIATE DRUG PRESCRIPTIONS FOR ELDERLY RESIDENTS OF BOARD AND CARE FACILITIES

(By Diana L. Spore, PhD, Vincent Mor, PhD, Paul Larrat, PhD, Catherine Hawes, PhD, and Jeffrey Hiris, MA)

INTRODUCTION

Board and care facilities are community-based alternatives to nursing homes, housing

elders with physical limitations, cognitive impairment, mental health problems, and chronic physical health conditions. They provide protective oversight, personal care, and assistance with activities of daily living and instrumental activities of daily living in congregate settings. Most facilities do not provide nursing care, but do store drugs and provide assistance with drug-use management in many instances. Board and care homes have been criticized for a lack of medical supervision in drug administration and monitoring, nonexistent drug-management programs, and unskilled staff; however, inappropriate drug use in these settings has been largely unstudied. Use of inappropriate medications can have serious clinical consequences, ranging from adverse drug reactions that affect elders' functional independence and psychosocial well-being to an increased risk of mortality.

Using the largest multistate sample of board and care homes assembled to date, we examine the prevalence and correlates of inappropriate drug prescriptions among elderly residents. Given that on the long-term care continuum, board and care is midway between living in the community without assistance and residing in nursing homes, we apply the Stuck and Beers criteria to derive estimates of rates for presumptively inappropriate drug prescriptions.

RESULTS

Inappropriate Drug Prescriptions

According to the Stuck and modified Stuck criteria, almost 18% of residents were prescribed at least one presumptively inappropriate drug. The most frequently prescribed inappropriate drugs included propoxyphene, long-acting benzodiazepines, dipyrindamole, and amitriptyline. Approximately 6.8% of elders were prescribed one or more presumptively inappropriate psychotropics.

Of those elders prescribed a drug included in the modified Stuck criteria, most (82.4%) were prescribed only one of the problematic drugs; 17.6% were prescribed two or three of the medications; and 38.5% were prescribed inappropriate psychotropics. Multiple prescriptions most frequently involved combinations of propoxyphene or a long-acting benzodiazepine with one other inappropriate drug (e.g., propoxyphene with amitriptyline).

According to the Beers criteria, almost 25% of residents had an inappropriate prescription. Of those with inappropriate prescriptions, 83.8% were prescribed an entirely contraindicated drug (regardless of dose); 19.3% were prescribed drugs that were problematic due to high dosages; and 40.5% were prescribed inappropriate psychotropics.

DISCUSSION

Using a large, multistate sample of board and care homes, this study examined the prevalence and correlates of inappropriate drug prescriptions among elderly residents. Almost one in four residents had at least one presumptively inappropriate prescription. Of those elders prescribed any drugs, 20.2% to 27.4% had inappropriate prescriptions. Rates for inappropriate drug prescriptions are high, but lower than what has been reported for nursing home residents and relatively comparable to rates among community-dwelling elders.

Only a minority of elderly board and care residents were prescribed more than one inappropriate medication. However, such combinations can cause additive central nervous system effects—such as confusion, excessive drowsiness, and dry mouth—which tend to be more serious problems in the elderly.

For the most part, board and care homes do not use pharmacists as consultants for drug-utilization review, do not computerize

drug data in a readily retrievable manner, and do not routinely maintain comprehensive charts documenting residents' clinical or physical status. Thus, we believed that identifying general characteristics associated with inappropriate drug use might prove useful in future efforts to target residents for whom drug-utilization review may be especially warranted. Residents with a larger number of regularly scheduled prescriptions were more likely than others in the sample to receive at least one inappropriate drug. Thus, the number of prescriptions may serve as a simple indicator for targeting residents at higher risk of inappropriate drug use. Indeed, in other arenas, having five or more prescriptions has been used as one indicator of the need for the services of a consultant pharmacist.

The Health Care Financing Administration recently published a final rule on regulation for drug-utilization review programs for Medicaid-covered prescription drugs. These regulations—which were not targeted specifically for residential care facilities—require that state Medicaid agencies have pharmacist counseling programs to ensure that prescriptions are medically necessary, appropriate, and unlikely to produce adverse side effects. We suggest that state board and care regulations be systematically reviewed with an eye toward incorporating and stimulating the development of pharmacy counseling and drug-utilization review programs that are specific to conditions faced in these facilities.

INTRODUCTION OF THE COMMUNITY RIGHT TO PROTECT CHILDREN RESOLUTION

HON. BRUCE F. VENTO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 1997

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Community Right to Protect Children Resolution, designed to reaffirm the right of State and local governments to pass laws intended to preserve and protect the safety of children.

In response to a series of gun related incidents at county recreation and teen centers, Fairfax County, VA, officials passed legislation, written to apply only in their county, that would have prohibited guns, knives, and other weapons from community recreation and teen centers. This common sense measure aimed at curbing crime in centers designated as safe havens for children to congregate, set the special interests groups in motion. Unable to discriminate between measures designed to protect children and those aimed at restricting gun rights of law abiding citizens, the myopic self interest powers vigorously protested, ultimately convincing Governor Allen to veto the bill. Governor Allen's veto not only struck down a good law, but also severely limited the ability of communities to fight crime and provide weapon free schools and recreation centers on a local level.

I am here today because I believe that the ability of local governments to pass effective laws that strengthen public safety should neither be constrained nor denied. I am, therefore, introducing this important legislation which expresses the sense of Congress that State and local governments should be encouraged and have the right to respond to the needs of their communities by enacting laws

and ordinances designed to preserve and protect the well-being of young people, including those that seek to ban the possession of firearms and other weapons in community facilities. The Community Right to Protect Children Resolution seeks to reverse the trend of putting children and public safety concerns second to special interest groups. The Virginia case illustrates the tragic consequences of what happens when the interests of children rank second to those of specialized interests with powerful political connections.

I think that Members on both sides of the aisle will agree with me that when it comes to addressing the unique public safety concerns of our districts, one size does not fit all. Local governments require flexibility—not legal straightjackets that bar their actions to protect children. This resolution recognizes that different problems require different solutions, that what works in rural areas may not be enough for urban areas where crimes committed with guns are more likely to occur. Local and State governments are fighting the crime problem on many fronts, including innovative policing and social programs, but their hands are tied when it comes to enacting any restrictions on guns. Reasonable gun and weapon restrictions, such as the measure passed by Fairfax County, VA, are an essential ingredient in our effort to reduce crime, particularly among juveniles. To suggest otherwise, ignores the incidence and pervasiveness of the problem, notably that nearly 90 percent of homicide victims 15 to 19 years of age were killed with a firearm. Juveniles are both perpetrators and victims of crime committed with firearms. Arrest rates are consistently and substantially higher for young people than for all other age groups. Between 1987 and 1994, annual rates of firearm homicide for youth aged 15 to 19 years of age increased 155 percent, totaling 8,116 deaths in 1994. This amounts to an average of 22 youth homicide victims per day in the United States, earning the United States the dubious distinction of leading the industrialized world in the number and rate of gun-related child homicides.

Strategies that limit the ability of local governments to respond to community needs, ensure that the war on crime will not be fought, much less won. We should be empowering rather than disabling and limiting the ability of local governments to fight crime. We need to ensure that communities have in their arsenal every tool available to curb the growth and incidence of juvenile crime. Federal and State law, and policy must not stand in the way of State and local governments' efforts to protect its citizens. Let us encourage them to accomplish what the Federal Government has limited ability to do—enact reasonable controls over firearms and other weapons that threaten public safety and the well-being of our children in their schools, recreation centers, or other areas in their communities.

WHAT MY FLAG MEANS TO ME

HON. BOB BARR

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 1997

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to have the following poem inserted into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

This poem entitled "What My Flag Means To Me" was written by William Watkins, a fifth grader at Alto Park Elementary School in Rome, GA.

WHAT MY FLAG MEANS TO ME

Have you ever stopped to think about our flag, about what it means, and how it came to be? Have you ever thought about it's history and what the glorious stripes and stars stand for? To me, the flag stands for freedom and liberty. It stands for pride and peace. It stands for wars that we fought, not only for ourselves, but for other countries and for things we just didn't think were right. Thankfully, my peers and I haven't been through anything like that, through all of that hatred and through all of that fear.

To me, the flag also stands for being our own country. We have our own government and are not ruled by anyone. It means that no matter what color your skin is, whether it is black, white, or red, everyone is treated equally. It means that no one can tell us what church to go to, where to live, how to live, where to go to school, or anything like that. We are our own country.

The beautiful red, white, and blue stars and stripes stand for fifty glorious and magnificent states; each with fitting nicknames like 'The Sunshine State' and 'The Peach State' (which are, by the way, Florida and Georgia). The stripes stand for the thirteen original thriving colonies. When I look at the Flag, I think of everyone who takes a part in making this big beautiful country work. I think about the people who risked their lives to come from Spain, France, Germany, England, and other countries to make this great country.

I hope our country is always safe, self-governmental, and beautiful for today, tomorrow, and on into the future. I also hope that everyone will respect our land forever.

TRIBUTE TO CLOVIS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 1997

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Clovis Unified School District [CUSD]. In a joint powers agreement, CUSD and Fresno Unified School District [FUSD] will open a Center for Advanced Research and Technology [CART] in Clovis, CA. An extended branch of the educational system in Clovis, CART will allow students in the community to adequately prepare for the technological challenges of the future.

Scheduled to open in the fall of 1999, CART pilot programs have been slated to begin in the fall of 1997. CART was made possible by a combination of grants and a partnership between local businesses and the educational departments of the community.

As a center striving to meet the employment needs of the community by adequately preparing students to take advantage of post-secondary options, the course work presented at the center will be responsive to the changes in American industry. CART will offer courses that require sophisticated laboratory environments and interdisciplinary curriculum that integrates higher order mathematics, sciences, and technology education. This course work will focus on the intellectual processes of problem solving, analyzing, team building resource allocation, and self-assessment

through a cognitive apprenticeship instructional model. The skills taught at CART will be invaluable in both interpersonal and technological growth throughout the students' lives.

Striving to educate all segments of the community, high school students and adults will reap the benefits of CART. High school students will spend half of their day at the center receiving laboratory instruction. The State Center Community College District will offer postsecondary classes for students. Additionally, the Central California Business Incubator Program will also be located at the center.

Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to welcome this program to my congressional district. I look forward to monitoring the progress that CART makes as it works closely with members of the local community. I ask my colleagues to join me both in supporting the Center for Advanced Research and Technology, and extending best wishes for its future success.

ADOPTION PROMOTION ACT OF 1997

SPEECH OF

HON. LOUIS STOKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 1997

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 867) to promote the adoption of children in foster care:

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the Adoption Promotion and Stability Act of 1997. I commend my colleague, Congressman CAMP, for bringing the important issue of adoption to the floor.

H.R. 867 would require officials to actively pursue adoptions for children who have languished in foster care for 18 months or more. In addition, this legislation would continue to require States to make "reasonable efforts" to keep families together unless returning a child to his or her family would involve "aggravated circumstances." These circumstances would include cases of chronic abuse, torture, or abandonment.

At the end of 1994, there were an estimated 462,000 children in family foster care, kinship care, or residential care—up 65 percent from only a decade ago. According to the Child Welfare League of America, half of all children who await adoption are minority children; these children typically wait longer for adoptive homes. In Cuyahoga County, of the over 3,000 children in the foster care system, nearly 65 percent are African-American. By actively pursuing adoptions for children who have remained in foster care for more than 18 months, H.R. 867 shares my belief that all children, regardless of age, sex, ethnicity, and physical and emotional health are entitled to a family.

Mr. Chairman, H.R. 867 would also require the Department of Health and Human Services to convene an advisory panel to report to Congress on the issue of kinship care. Currently, there are more than 3 million grandparents raising their grandchildren. According to census figures, in 1990, three times as many grandparents were raising their grandchildren than in 1980—just 10 years prior. In addition, many other relatives including aunts, uncles, and older siblings are left to care for

children who are not able or not willing to raise their children. This is an important step in helping to address the rapidly growing issue of kinship care.

Mr. Chairman, the promotion of adoption is one of the most important things we can do to strengthen American families. Adoption enables children, whose parents cannot or will not raise them, to become part of a permanent family. Furthermore, it serves as a second chance for the thousands of children who have been removed from their families because of abuse or neglect.

H.R. 867 represents a positive approach in finding homes for our Nation's needy children. I support this effort to facilitate the adoption of children, and to decrease the time that many of our children languish in the foster care system. Mr. Chairman, I join with my colleagues in support of this legislation.

NATIONAL LAW DAY

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 1997

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, May 1, 1997, members of the legal profession throughout the lower Hudson Valley region will join with their colleagues in the national observance of Law Day. Law Day serves as an opportunity for all Americans to celebrate our liberties and to reaffirm our commitment to the ideals of justice and equality under the law.

Law Day will be celebrated in my district by the Orange County Bar Association and the Women's Bar Association of Orange and Sullivan Counties in a ceremony at the Orange County Government Center. This year's theme is "Celebrate Your Freedom."

Our Republic was founded on several key principles, many based on the English common law. Yet our Founding Fathers went further than their predecessors in England, and established a written Constitution with a codified Bill of Rights. They also founded a legal system which places the burden of proof on the accuser, not the accused, and in which everyone is entitled to having their day in court.

Moreover, they also established an independent judiciary, a first for the world at that time, which has safeguarded the rights and freedoms of our citizens for over 200 years.

Accordingly, liberty and equality under the law is one of the guiding principles of our Republic. Without any legal system, freedom quickly dissolves into anarchy. Yet, without liberty, the rule of law devolves into mere authoritarianism.

I am pleased to join my colleagues in the legal profession from the 20th Congressional District of New York in celebrating Law Day. This year's celebration reaffirms the fact that the principles upon which our country was founded upon are alive and well.

TRIBUTE TO BERTRAM GROSS

HON. RONALD V. DELLUMS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 1997

Mr. DELLUMS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the memory, as well as to celebrate the life of

Bertram Gross, who I designated a national treasure in 1995 on behalf of my constituents, for his lifetime of work and dedication to achieve full employment for the people of this Nation, for his writings, and for his teaching.

Among Bertram Gross' many achievements, I have special reason to acknowledge his work as the primary author of the first full employment act introduced in 1945, and passed in 1946, and the second full employment act introduced in 1976 and passed in 1978 by the U.S. Congress. My district and I are particularly indebted to him for his work as the primary author of the third bill, A Living Wage, Jobs for All Act, which was first introduced in 1993, in the 103d Congress, and has been reintroduced in the 104th, as well as in this, the 105th Congress.

Bert was born in 1913 and, when he became a young man in the 1930's in spite of hard-working, supportive parents, and his own capabilities could not find work, like one-half of the American labor force at that time. His personal experience, his knowledge of the misery of so many other Americans provided his earliest social education. These lessons in the fear generated by the destructiveness of joblessness was the marrow, the foundation of his life work.

Like Franklin D. Roosevelt, and Thomas Paine, and William Jefferson, Bert believed profoundly in the dignity of each human being. He fought against the momentum that only those who inherited wealth, or possessed large blocks of capital should have access to the wealth of our society and Nation. Fundamental to this belief was that we all must have the right to work at adequate wages to support ourselves and our children. Bert Gross believed that one of our national legacies was our sense of our basic right to a life of dignity and, that this basic right incorporated a right to work, to adequate housing, food, health care, and education. A legacy that Americans had earned and achieved through the Depression of the thirties and full employment in the forties and that we now appear to have forgotten and lost.

Bert Gross designed A Living Wage, Jobs for All Act, not only as a full employment bill; because the act incorporates basic elements of our economic life and provides specific remedies for many of these ills, this bill can be truly considered a party platform. A platform that is diametrically opposed to the destructiveness of the recent Contract With America.

I designated Bert a national treasure because of the passion that he brought to his life work to have the Nation consider full employment as a fundamental principle. He wrote, talked, cajoled, led, persuaded, and taught all who came into contact with him, with humanity, with humor, with great intelligence and most of the time, with great patience and appreciation for the possession of similar qualities in his students and audience.

In the last 3 years, Bert worked on a daily basis with members of my staff and with my constituents promoting A Living Wage, Jobs for All Act; to hone the bill so that it could be read as prose for a wider readership; to develop strategies to gain support for the ideas reflected in the bill, and to work toward our rediscovery of our lost heritage.

Bertram Gross, being wise, knew he was mortal. For the many of us who benefitted from his work, his wisdom, and his passionate commitment, we can best remember him by

continuing the work that he began so magnificently.

TRIBUTE TO S.M. SGT. WILLIS MULCEROY, M. SGT. ELDON RAUCH, AND T. SGT. HENRY ROMEO, JR., 144TH FIGHTER WING DIVISION, FRESNO, CA

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 1997

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to three outstanding individuals from the 144th Fighter Wing Division in Fresno, CA. These three men exemplify the bravery and consciousness that have earned them the Flight Line Safety Award of Distinction.

On the morning of October 10, 1996, an air carrier was taxiing for takeoff past the ramp of the 144th Fighter Wing. Technical Sergeant Romero heard a loud explosion and noticed what was one of the dual main landing gear tires and what appeared to be a rim fall onto the taxiway. It appeared that the pilots on the aircraft were not aware of the situation and continued toward takeoff. Meanwhile, in maintenance control, S.S.T. Mulceroy also heard the loud explosion of the landing gear tires. He used the flightline radio to direct the expediter toward Sergeant Romero. When Master Sergeant Rauch—the expediter—arrived, Sergeant Romero informed him of the situation and the need to stop the aircraft. Sergeant Rauch immediately used his UHF radio to contact the FAA tower and requested them to stop the airliner—which was quickly making its way towards an active runway. Sergeant Rauch and Sergeant Romero took the expediter truck to the disabled aircraft to assure themselves that the tire had indeed blown. They promptly notified the tower of their findings, and the flight was directed back to the terminal for repair.

Mr. Speaker, had the aircraft not been stopped, it would have taken off with major damage to its right landing gear. The swift action of these three fine men averted a potential major accident and saved the lives of more than 70 people. I commend, S.M. Sgt. Willis Mulceroy, M. Sgt. Eldon Rauch, and T. Sgt. Henry Romero, Jr. for their heroics, and ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating them for their actions. I extend to them my sincerest appreciation for a job well done.

HONORING RABBI MYRON FENSTER

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 1997

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join with my constituents and members of the Shelter Rock Jewish Center as they gather at this most renowned synagogue to celebrate the 30th anniversary of Rabbi Myron Fenster as the spiritual leader of the congregation.

Rabbi Fenster was schooled at the Yeshiva of Flatbush, Yeshiva College and Talmudic Academy, and was ordained at the Jewish

Theological Seminary of America. He enhanced his training with advanced studies at the University of Arizona and Columbia University's Graduate Department of Philosophy.

Rabbi Fenster's calling has taken him well beyond the borders of the Shelter Rock Jewish Center into positions of responsibility that have ranged from local to international areas. He is past president of the New York Board of Rabbis, and a member of the faculty of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America. He is widely known for his educational and leadership skills, and has served as visiting rabbi of the Moriah Congregation in Haifa, Israel, and as president of Histadruth Ivrit of America.

Rabbi Fenster is a past editor of Conservative Judaism, the quarterly publication of the Rabbinical Assembly of America. He has also chaired the Assembly's Social Justice program. He currently serves as cochairman of the Education Committee of the Long Island Holocaust Commission.

Mr. Speaker, Rabbi Fenster's knowledge and wisdom is in great demand. He has been published in many magazines, periodicals and newspapers including Newsday, the Jerusalem Post, Hadassah Magazine and Midstream. In addition, he has visited Jewish communities throughout the world, in all of the major capitals of Europe and the former Soviet Union. In 1993, he led a rabbinic delegation to the Jewish communities of Morocco.

For the past 30 years, Rabbi Fenster and his wife Ricky have been a most potent force in organizing and uniting the Shelter Rock Jewish Center into a proactive synagogue that has effectively serviced its membership and has, most readily, enhanced, and enriched this great community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to rise and join with me in celebrating the 30th anniversary of Rabbi Myron and Ricky Fenster at the Shelter Rock Jewish Center.

INDIANA OPTOMETRIC ASSOCIATION CELEBRATES CENTENNIAL

HON. STEPHEN E. BUYER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 1997

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, in December 1896, a number of opticians from across the State of Indiana met in Indianapolis for the advancement of the profession. A motion was carried to form the Indiana Optical Society. Over the years, the organization has been known by different names, but this was the beginning of the Indiana Optometric Association.

The organization has significantly enhanced the profession by formulating a code of ethics; by seeking a school of optometry—the School of Optometry at Indiana University—and by adopting standards and methods of practice. The organization is a strong advocate of education among its members.

The Indiana Optometric Association also contributes significantly to the welfare of Hoosiers. As early as 1922, it held the first Save Your Vision week. It has participated in industrial vision research programs as well as vision awareness activities in schools and among the general public.

It is my pleasure to congratulate the Indiana Optometric Association for its 100 years of service to the eye health and vision care needs of Hoosiers. I also ask unanimous consent that the resolution passed by the Senate in the Indiana General Assembly be printed in the RECORD.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

A Concurrent Resolution Celebrating the Centennial Anniversary of the Indiana Optometric Association

Whereas, the Indiana Optometric Association (IOA) was founded in 1897 and will be celebrating its Centennial Anniversary during the year 1997, and

Whereas, the IOA is marking 100 years of successful advocacy for the profession of optometry in Indiana, and

Whereas, the IOA has provided 100 years of service in the public interest on behalf of the eye care and eye health of Indiana's citizens, and

Whereas, the IOA was instrumental in the decision of the Indiana General Assembly that established the Indiana University School of Optometry in the early 1950s, and has forged an ongoing professional relationship with the School of Optometry that is a national model, and

Whereas, the IOA commends the Indiana General Assembly for its continuing support of the profession of optometry and the patients it serves, and

Whereas, the IOA has historically distinguished itself as an exemplary professional optometric association in the United States, and

Whereas, the IOA rededicates itself and the profession of optometry to serving the eye health and vision care needs of the citizens of the state of Indiana for the next 100 years,

Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana, the House of Representatives concurring:

SECTION 1. That, on behalf of the people of the State of Indiana, we extend our sincere appreciation to IOA for its dedicated service to the people of the State of Indiana and the profession of optometry.

SECTION 2. That the Secretary of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this resolution to the Indian Optometric Association.

THE MEDICAL DEVICE REGULATORY FLEXIBILITY ACT

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 1997

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, during last year's Food and Drug Administration [FDA] reform deliberations, two proposals stuck me as particularly innovative, commonsense approaches to simplifying the regulation of medical devices while fully protecting public health and saving agency resources. Today, with my colleagues Representatives ESHOO, GREENWOOD, TOWNS, and HALL of Texas, I am introducing the Medical Device Regulatory Flexibility Act, legislation incorporating these proposals, to highlight them and ensure that they are central to FDA reform efforts.

First, this legislation would provide the FDA with greater flexibility in classifying devices than current law provides. Under current law, lower risk—class I and class II—new devices may go to market if the FDA finds that they are “substantially equivalent” to ready marketed devices. If the new device is unique and

the agency cannot make a determination that it is substantially equivalent to a marketed device, current law requires that the device be automatically classified as a class III—high risk—device, regardless of the actual level of risk posed by the new device. The manufacturer must then either complete costly and time-consuming clinical studies and submit a new device approval application to the agency or must petition the agency for reclassification, which is under current law a complex and time-consuming procedure.

Under my bill, the FDA would be given the statutory flexibility to classify a new device based on the risk posed by the device, at the request of a manufacturer whose device was determined to be "not substantially equivalent" to a marketed device. Under the bill, the FDA would retain full authority for determining the classification of a device. The agency would simply receive a new, risk-based classification option. Since class III devices require the most intensive review, this proposal should free up agency resources to focus on truly high-risk devices.

Second, this legislation will provide the FDA with a much simpler way to recognize device performance standards. Under current law, the FDA has the authority to promulgate standards, but the process for doing so is tortuous. As a result, the agency has rarely used this authority. Under our bill, the agency would retain the authority to promulgate its own standards, but could also recognize national and international performance standards by identifying and listing the standard in the Federal Register. Device manufacturers would then have the option of certifying to the agency that their products met the standard as a way of fulfilling all or part of the applicable statutory requirements which must be met before devices may be marketed. Device performance standards form the basis for device regulation in the European Community. Providing U.S. manufacturers with this option would move forward our efforts to harmonize our regulatory systems.

I would welcome additional cosponsors of this commonsense regulatory reform measure. If you would like further information or would like to cosponsor this legislation, please call me or Jane Williams, 5-3761, of my staff.

TRIBUTE TO KENNETH L. KHACHIGIAN

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 1997

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Kenneth L. Khachigian. A legend in the political arena and a jewel in the Armenian community, Khachigian has joined the Junior Achievement of Armenia's [JAA] Honorary Board.

As noted in the Saturday, March 22 edition of the Armenian Mirror-Spectator (see attached), JAA is an economics and business education program that offers Applied Economics classes and the student company experience in Armenia's high schools and institutions of higher learning. The purpose of the program is to introduce students to the free enterprise system, explain how it operates, and define its role in business and the global

marketplace. Additionally, JAA familiarizes students with the hands-on basics of running a business, and explains to them the importance of economics to their future.

Khachigian, a native of the Central Valley, has had a distinguished career in American politics. A farmer by nature and an attorney by trade, Khachigian has worked for former Presidents Nixon, Reagan, and Bush. In both campaign and executive roles, Khachigian has been instrumental in formulating and implementing the ideals and goals of the Republican Party. In addition to his advisory roles with Presidents Reagan and Bush, Khachigian played an active role in the successful campaigns of California Governors George Deukmejian and Pete Wilson. Most recently, Khachigian served as National Senior Advisor for the Dole for President campaign. In this position, Khachigian coordinated Senate Majority Leader Dole's Presidential bid in the State of California.

Khachigian has also been active outside the political arena. He has served as a member of the board to the Armenian Assembly of America. He also sat as a Presidential appointee on the National Institute of Justice Advisory Board. From 1986-1992, Khachigian served on the Board of Overseers at the Hoover Institution on War, Revolution and Peace. He currently resides on the Board of California Council for Environmental and Economic Balance.

Mr. Speaker, Ken Khachigian is a pioneer in the area of political advising and consulting. Khachigian's numerous accomplishments have been instrumental in advancing the agenda for a more responsible, independent, and productive America. I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Ken Khachigian, a man of impeccable character. Ken should be admired not only for his multitude of success in America, but also for his tremendous contribution to—and support for—the Armenian community.

KENNETH KHACHIGIAN JOINS JR. ACHIEVEMENT OF ARMENIA'S BOARD

LOS ANGELES, CA—Presidential campaign advisor and political strategist Kenneth L. Khachigian has recently joined Junior Achievement of Armenia's (JAA) Honorary Board, which also includes former California Governor George Deukmejian and Dr. Mihran Agbabian, President Emeritus of the American University of Armenia. The purpose of this distinguished body is to provide JAA with advice, support and guidance.

"I am particularly pleased to become a member of the Honorary Board of Junior Achievement of Armenia. The remarkable and rapid growth of the group has made it among the most successful non-government programs in Armenia," commented Khachigian. "I have great respect for grassroots organizations which promote education and demonstrate a vision for the future, and Junior Achievement of Armenia is just that organization," he said.

Khachigian's career has been highlighted by numerous achievements. Most recently, he served as National Senior Advisor for the Dole for President campaign. In this post, his top priority was coordinating Senator Dole's presidential campaign in the State of California. As a political strategist and advisor, he has led to victory three U.S. Presidents, including Ronald Reagan and George Bush, and several California State leaders, including Governors Pete Wilson and George Deukmejian. During his career, Khachigian has also served as chief speech-writer to President Reagan, and was a Nixon White House aide.

In addition to his professional activities, Khachigian has served as a Board member of the Armenian Assembly of America, and has sat as a Presidential appointee on the National Institute of Justice Advisory Board. During 1986-1992 he served on the Board of Overseers of the Hoover Institution of War, Revolution and Peace at Stanford University. Currently he sits on the Board of the California Council for Environmental and Economic Balance.

Junior Achievement of Armenia is an economics and business education program offering Applied Economics classes and the student company experience in Armenia's high schools, and institutes of higher learning. The program teaches young people how the free enterprise system operates, the role of business in the global marketplace, the hands-on basics of running a business, and the importance of economics on their future. Junior Achievement of Armenia is a non-profit organization.

READING CAN OPEN MANY DOORS

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 1997

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I joined several of my colleagues in introducing President Clinton's America Reads Challenge Act. This legislation will help mobilize reading specialists and trained volunteers to ensure that every child can read by the end of the third grade.

Today I want to share with the House an essay written by Adam Frankel, the 18-year-old grandson of two of my constituents. Adam writes eloquently about the joys and benefits of reading. As we pledge our efforts to ensure that all children enter fourth grade reading on their own, I thought it might be helpful to hear how one young American uses this gift to learn about the world.

I insert the text of Adam Frankel's essay at this point in the RECORD.

READING CAN OPEN MANY DOORS

(By Adam Frankel)

When I hold a book between my hands, I do not feel the paper and I do not see the words. I feel as though I am holding "knowledge" in my hands, and the more complicated the book, the better. That way, it is not just entertaining, but it is something far more enjoyable: challenging and revealing. After reading and understanding a complicated phrase or book, you feel a sense of accomplishment. When I hold in my hands William James and move my eyes slowly across each word, I know I am looking into the mind of James himself. The words he uses to describe things are as much a part of him as his fingerprint.

When writing, your words build up within and explode out onto paper with your own patent on them. A word can be so much more, if it is allowed to be. The difference between a word's various connotations determine the feeling of a character, or description of a scene. The word can even determine the future of a state, depending on whether it is used correctly or not in policy planning.

Walter Lippman once said that he wrote each sentence as if the article were to be judged on that sentence alone. It is this appreciation of the written word that I try to give to everything I read. And what I have chosen to read has largely defined not only my interests at the moment, but even my

character and future interests. Reading a biography of Allen Dulles led me to Franklin Delano Roosevelt and a century of wise men. Reading about the Russian Revolution led me, through a limited understanding of Karl Marx, to other political philosophers.

Philosophy opened up great new doors for me that I had previously not known existed. I suddenly found myself fascinated in how different people saw life and how I could attain that higher form of being. Lippmann helped answer that question for me. He wrote that the best way to live life is to keep removed enough from anything that could affect you negatively, so that you could see it in an objective light. From his biography I learned that he was going through an awful marriage at the time he wrote that and was probably developing a plan to deal with it, but it nevertheless affected me greatly.

It taught me to "storm the barricades" if a problem arises rather than "retreat into a monastery." He also taught me to never waste time, but to evaluate any action I take in regard to how it will affect me now, and in the future and whether it is really worth doing.

And so now, I collect as many books as I think are worth collecting, not because I will read them all now, or read all of them later. I collect them because when I look at my bookshelf, I feel I'm looking at my potential, and when you are constantly reminded of your potential, it is hard not to do your best to fulfill it.

Perhaps by reading philosophy, but probably even before that, I have always had a great sense of history, and my future. I sit sometimes on the porch with my father and grandfather in Bermuda or Scarsdale. We sit around, look up at those stars that are so noticeably lacking in New York City and we philosophize:

My grandfather explains the theory of "priming the pump" one minute and then gives lessons from those days when he was living through the Depression. He tells me the story of a speech he submitted for Hubert Humphrey, which opposed the Vietnam War and was firmly rejected by the candidate, who was then vice president.

We all sit around: my grandfather, a testament to history; my father, a testament to intellectualism, and I, a testament to potential. I think of how much they have influenced me and how much I want to be as intelligent and as well read as they are. And then I realize that I have a long way to go; and that through reading the books which I collect, I will slowly chip away at the large block of space between theirs and my intellectual stamina.

I can't wait until college, when required reading will be Nietzsche and Hegel. Hopefully, by then, I'll be able to grasp more of them than I can now. I do know that the pride of my household will always be my library. For, looking into the books' eyes, I see, I know, my future.

SALUTE TO AMBASSADOR ROBERT NESEN

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 1997

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Ambassador Robert Nesen for his numerous contributions to the State of California and his country.

In 1942, Mr. Nesen was commissioned in the U.S. Navy, receiving his Navy wings in 1943. He was on active duty until 1946 and

after spending 22 years in the Naval Reserve, retired as lieutenant commander in 1967. In 1972, he was awarded the Navy Distinguished Public Service Award, the highest civilian award given by the U.S. Navy.

In 1948, he began his own automobile dealership and continues to be active in that industry. He has served as director and past president of the Motor Car Dealers Association of southern California and in 1991 was inducted into the Automotive Hall of Fame.

Ambassador Nesen has been active in both local and national politics. In 1970, President Nixon appointed Mr. Nesen to the National Reserve Board, East-West Center and in 1972 he was appointed Assistant Secretary of the Navy. In 1981, President Reagan appointed Mr. Nesen Ambassador to Australia and Nauru. He remained in that position until his return to the United States in 1985.

Throughout his distinguished career, Ambassador Nesen has earned the respect of many. He was named "Patriotic Citizen of the Year," receiving the Patrick Henry Patriotism Medallion by the Military Order of World Wars. In 1991, he was given the Path to Dignity Award by the American Parkinson Disease Foundation. And, in 1994 he received the World Citizen Award from the World Affairs Council of Ventura County. The award was presented by Vice President Dan Quayle.

Ambassador Nesen is a model for us all. His unwavering patriotism and dedication to duty are truly an inspiration. I am proud to pay tribute to him today.

RECOGNITION OF BONNIE TAM

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 1997

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleague to join me today in commending Ms. Bonnie Tam, a senior at Westmoor High School and the recipient of the Congressional Youth Excellence Award in the 12th Congressional District of California.

Bonnie Tam's scholastic achievements are most impressive. She has maintained a high grade point average while undertaking a challenging class schedule. She has supplemented her regular high school courses by taking classes at the College of San Mateo and at Skyline College. Her academic awards include the Pacific Telesis Employees for Women's Affirmative Action Scholarship, the Bank of America Liberal Arts Award, Golden State Exam Honors for Geometry and American History, Golden State Exam Student Recognition for Biology and Algebra, and a National Merit Letter of Commendation. Ms. Tam has been recognized in the Who's Who of American High School Students.

In addition to her outstanding academic record, Bonnie has a remarkable record of community service. She has volunteered at Seton Medical Center in Daly City and at the Westside Women's HIV Prevention Program in San Francisco. In Westmoor High School, she has been involved in Symphonic Band, the Book Club, German Club, Math Tutoring Club, Newcomer Service Club, and the Gifted and Talented Education Club.

Bonnie will attend the University of California, Berkeley, in the fall where she plans to

study business administration, management, or economics.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in commending Ms. Bonnie Tam for her outstanding service to our community and in congratulating her for her academic achievements.

TRIBUTE TO VICTOR "TRANSPORT" MAGHAKIAN

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 1997

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Victor "Transport" Maghakian. A legend of World War II, Maghakian was one of the most decorated and well-respected soldiers of the war.

A native of Chicago, Maghakian moved to San Diego with his family in 1930. Nine years later, he moved to Fresno. He first served in the U.S. Marine Corps in the Philippines and throughout China. His familiarity with foreign bases throughout the Pacific earned him the nickname "Transport." After Pearl Harbor was attacked on December 7, 1941, Maghakian re-enlisted in the Marine Corps and was selected to work with the so-called suicide unit of crack soldiers. These tough Marines were known as Carlson's Raiders.

As a gunnery sergeant, Maghakian led his troops through what was believed to be some of the bloodiest fighting in seven South Pacific campaigns. During one mission, Maghakian even made himself a human target so that a sniper, who had wounded one of his buddies, would give up his hiding spot. The enemy was shot, but not before Maghakian was shot himself, wounded by the sniper's gun-fire.

Maghakian's bravery allowed him to continue undaunted through numerous battles. In 1944, during the battle of Eniwetok, he eliminated the last four Japanese soldiers on Mollu Island and went on to rescue a platoon by destroying the enemy flank with grenades. In the battle, he saved the life of a young man who went on to be one of Hollywood's finest actors—Lee Marvin. He also became the first officer to raise the American flag on Tinian Island.

After leaving active duty in 1946, Maghakian retired as a captain, with full honors. He received the Navy Cross, two Silver Stars, a Bronze Star, and two Purple Hearts. He returned to Fresno where he owned and managed the Mid-Valley Beer and Wine Wholesale Distributing Co. and the Victor Mobile Service. Maghakian later joined the State Department as a security officer in Morocco before settling in Las Vegas. He eventually moved back to Fresno where he died in 1977, and was buried at Ararat Cemetery.

Mr. Speaker, Victor "Transport" Maghakian fought for this Nation's freedom with uncommon valor. I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Victor Maghakian, an American hero.

TRIBUTE TO THE DEDICATION
CEREMONY OF IBED'S NEWLY
REMODELED FACILITY

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 1997

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, today the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers proudly dedicates their newly remodeled facility in Detroit, MI. Their building in Detroit is a proud symbol of their dedication to the growth and prosperity of the Greater Detroit metropolitan area and its citizens.

For the past 83 years, the IBEW has provided safe electrical installation and maintenance for those who live in southeastern Michigan. The union has a long and prosperous history of faithfully serving our workers, community, and country. During the war years, Local 58 joined the war effort to maintain industries needed to sustain our arsenal for defense. Many members joined the military and sacrificed their careers and lives to fight for their country.

Within the walls of Local 58's building, union leaders and members have joined together to protect democracy and the rights of workers. Their vision of safe working conditions, fair wages, and job protection began inside those walls. Over the years, contracts have been fought and settled by generations of dedicated union members.

The exterior of the building has been altered but on the inside the same dedication to the rights of the workers remains. I would like to congratulate Local 58 for their contributions to their profession, community, and country.

ICELANDIC FOREIGN MINISTER ON
NATO

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 1997

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I have just returned from a meeting of the heads of delegations to the North Atlantic Assembly in Reykjavik, Iceland, where Icelandic Foreign Minister Halldor Asgrimsson delivered a remarkable speech on the future of the North Atlantic Alliance.

I am inserting the text of the speech into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and commend it to the attention of Members.

SPEECH BY HE HALLDOR ASGRIMSSON, MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND EXTERNAL TRADE—APRIL 5, 1997

Ladies and Gentlemen, it is a great pleasure to welcome representatives of the North Atlantic Assembly to Iceland. We are proud to be one of the founding members of NATO, an institution of unrivalled importance to Icelandic, European and, most importantly, Trans-Atlantic security.

Through membership of NATO Iceland shares its fate with its allies. In fact, we like to think of Iceland's membership in NATO as the very embodiment of the Trans-Atlantic link.

To reinforce our security we have since 1951 had a bilateral defense agreement with the United States, pursuant to the North Atlantic Treaty. The defence of Iceland's sov-

ereignty has thereby been based on a credible US military presence and robust reinforcement plans. It is my strong belief that this agreement has been to the mutual benefit of both countries and served to increase allied security as a whole.

The post-cold war era has called for some adjustments in our bilateral defence co-operation as reflected by the changed security environment in Europe and the North Atlantic. This has been achieved by a special understanding, or "Agreed Minute" signed one year ago, which sets the force levels at Keflavik to the bare minimum of what we consider credible defences for this country.

The nature of the threat our Alliance is faced with has changed, but the risks are still there. Russia's Northern fleet is still a force to reckon with, and is of growing importance to Russia's overall military capability and its status as a major power.

I do not wish to issue any gloomy predictions as regards future developments in that great and important country and most sincerely hope to see Russia develop as a prosperous democracy with a strong and lasting partnership with the west. But we have to be aware of the fact that there is still a level of uncertainty about Russia's future course.

The NATO base at Keflavik offers an excellent infrastructure and operational capability to preserve the security functions needed in this part of the world.

The crucial element here is the continuation of one of the basic principles of our Alliance, the indivisibility of security for the member states. This principle becomes all the more important now when we are taking the first steps towards accepting new members.

Ladies and Gentlemen, we have today the opportunity of creating a Europe whole and free, a goal that eluded us for over forty years due to the post war division of Europe, and Cold War rivalry. The profound changes and transformation that started in 1989 continue. Fortunately these have, on the whole, been positive.

Still terrifying events have also occurred of scale and cruelty we thought belonged to Europe's past and the post-cold war era has brought new risks and challenges as well as new opportunities.

I believe there are several collective lessons that can be learned from the events since 1989. One is that peace is not to be taken for granted. Another is that despite overall progress, people in our part of the world are still capable of inflicting pain and suffering on fellow human beings. A third, and fundamental lesson, is that the North Atlantic Alliance and the Trans-Atlantic link remain the base of our collective security now that we take on new security challenges that threaten peace and stability in our region.

1997 will be a landmark year for our alliance. The current issues we commonly face are of profound importance for the emerging new European Security Architecture. These are the internal adaptation of NATO, the enlargement process, the extended outreach to our partners through PfP and the proposed Atlantic Partnership Council, and the strengthening of relations with Russia and Ukraine.

The internal adaptation process is by no means easy. It is important that throughout this transformation we do not lose sight of our primary objective of ensuring credible Allied defense, well into the next millennium. As the Alliance transforms itself, we should take care not to let national aspirations stand in the way of our mutual success.

We have seen the development of the Combined Joint Task Force concept that makes the Alliance better suited to take on new

missions like crisis management and conflict prevention. Also, the decision to build and reinforce a European Security and Defense Identity within the Alliance, and not separate from it, is a key factor in the current adaptation. One of the objectives of the current adaptation should be to have European allies properly engaged in the defense structure.

At the same time the Trans-Atlantic link and a strongly visible and credible American presence in Europe and the command structure needs to be maintained. Nothing should be done to undermine that. If we do that, we threaten the very foundation of our Alliance and our common security.

Another key task facing the Alliance is the preparation for new members. At the Summit in July, the decision on which countries to invite to the first post-cold war enlargement of NATO will be made. This will be the fourth time the alliance will enlarge since its foundation.

Since the start of the enlargement process, we have seen decisive action from many of our partners, who have expressed their interest in membership, to fulfill membership criteria. This in itself has had a very positive influence on European security. Many of the countries of Central and Eastern Europe have already concluded, or are about to conclude agreements with their neighbors settling previously unresolved disputes. In this way, NATO enlargement is already proving to be of benefit to European security as a whole.

Enlargement is important to erase the artificial division of Europe and to recognize, through concrete action, that free independent countries have the right to choose their own security arrangements. This right is clearly stated in the OSCE documents and has been confirmed as recently as at the OSCE Lisbon Summit last December. It would be totally unacceptable if certain countries were to be defined as not being eligible for NATO membership. In this context I would like to draw your attention to the case of the Baltic States and ask that their needs and aspirations receive your goodwill and attention.

After the end of the Cold War NATO has engaged in constructive dialogue and co-operation with its former adversaries. In 1991 this took on concrete form with the establishment of the North Atlantic Co-operation Council. In 1994 this co-operation and dialogue was brought to a new level with the initiation of the Partnership for Peace program.

PfP has proved to be one of the most effective security co-operation programs ever, and has brought together all the NATO allies and virtually every European country, regardless of past or present affiliations. The experiences gained through PfP have been vital to the success of the peace operation in Bosnia Herzegovina.

We should enhance PfP and further strengthen co-operation with our partners with the establishment of an Atlantic Partnership Council. This will be especially important in light of the Alliance's enlargement, since unfortunately, the Alliance will not be able to accommodate all countries aspiring for membership in the first round of post-Cold War enlargement.

Again, in this context we must make it crystal clear that the Alliance remains open, and that this first post Cold War enlargement will not be the last. Furthermore, we should ensure that countries that still see membership of NATO as their ultimate goal will be able to co-operate and adapt to the Alliance's mode of operation as far as possible through the enhanced PfP and APC.

As regards those countries that do not seek membership, the APC and enhanced PfP will

also provide an opportunity to work constructively with NATO to improve security and stability in Europe as a whole.

This year Iceland has the pleasure to host a robust Partnership for Peace exercise, "Co-operative Safeguard 97," the first exercise within the framework of PfP to be conducted in here in our country.

The scenario for Cooperative Safeguard 97, focusing on natural disaster relief, is extremely important to Iceland. The Icelandic nation has always been at the mercy of the forces of nature, be it earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, avalanches or cruel seas. The exercise gives the domestic agencies and organizations working in this field an excellent opportunity to test their strength in international co-operation. Furthermore it is my strong belief that all participating partnership states will benefit greatly from the type of civil and military co-operation which is the backbone of the exercise.

The importance of Cooperative Safeguard 97 is not confined to its value as a disaster relief exercise. It also has a great political significance as a practical manifestation of the intimate co-operation and friendly relationship that has developed between NATO and non-NATO countries through PfP. Twenty countries will participate. Russian participation in the exercise is especially significant.

Russia, and Ukraine, occupy a special place in Europe and in the outreach of the Alliance to non-members. An independent, democratic and stable Ukraine is in all our interests. Therefore the Alliance is in the process of developing an effective relationship with Ukraine. I hope this new security relationship will be formalized by the time of the Madrid summit.

Our relations with Russia are at the same time going through a rapid transformation. We realize and recognize Russia's difficulty in appreciating Nato's enlargement, but frankly it is not for Russia to decide, veto, or prevent.

We have collectively been working hard to explain to the Russians that enlargement is not directed against the security interests of any country and the Alliance has always been and will continue to be defensive in nature; the Alliance has never had any territorial aspirations. NATO enlargement will happen not because the Alliance wants to expand, but because the countries of Central and Eastern Europe are exercising their sovereign right to choose their own security arrangements.

However, a constructive participation of Russia in European security is of fundamental importance. That is why we must intensify and formalize our relations with Russia through a special charter or agreement. It is very important that our Secretary General has had the full support of all allies in carrying out these discussions and I hope they will soon come to a fruitful conclusion that will be of benefit to the security of NATO, Russia and Europe as a whole.

The goal is to establish far-reaching consultative mechanisms and opportunities for extended co-operation, and even joint action, between Russia and the Alliance. The Alliances' co-operation with Russia in IFOR and SFOR has proved that facing practical problems, NATO and Russia can work together effectively and efficiently for the benefit of European security.

Ladies and Gentleman, I have briefly discussed Iceland and NATO, and some of the most important tasks facing our Alliance in the immediate future. In less than eight years we have witnessed European security changing from confrontation to co-operation, from hostility to partnership. This is however no time for complacency. We need to continuously move forward and stay alert,

otherwise we risk losing what we have already gained. That is why the North Atlantic Alliance will continue to be important, relevant and necessary to ensure that peace and stability will prevail, for current and future generations.

Finally, our Alliance is based on freedom and respect for democratic principles, Iceland has the oldest parliament in the world, founded almost twelve hundred years ago. We attach great importance to the role of parliament and parliamentarians in preserving and enhancing democracy in our country. Likewise, the importance of democratic principles is reflected in your valuable work in the different parliaments of Alliance member states. As we enlarge our Alliance to include the new democracies to our east, we will contribute to the strengthening of freedom and democratic development which is the key to prosperity and progress. Likewise it is of utmost importance that the new democracies themselves make every effort to strengthen the democratic process within as well as respect for those principles through their actions. Strong and viable democratic development is fundamental to European security and stability, and of course the enlargement of NATO.

A TRIBUTE TO THE ROTARY CLUB OF MUGELLO, ITALY, ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 20TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. THOMAS M. FOGLIETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 1997

Mr. FOGLIETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the members of the Rotary Club of Mugello, Italy, who have provided civic and humanitarian services to their community for the past 20 years.

Established in 1977 in the town of Mugello, nestled in the beautiful hills of Tuscany, the club claims as members some of the most prominent business and professional leaders of the Tuscany region. They include: physicians, dentists, architects, engineers, clothing designers, manufacturers, publishers, government officials, cattle ranchers, and businessmen.

The club has strong ties to the city of Philadelphia through Circuit Judge Joseph Bruno and his wife, Kathy. It has also established a twin-club relationship with a Rotary Club in Philadelphia, as well as with clubs in France and Greece. Among its other activities through Rotary International, the Rotary Club of Mugello has established scholarship funds for Italian students to study at graduate schools here in the United States.

The Rotary Club of Mugello, under the leadership of its president, Paolo Collini and its incoming president, Alvaro Baglioni, will soon celebrate 20 years of "Service Above Self," which is the motto of Rotary International and which is particularly fitting in the case of the Mugello Rotarians. In light of their 20 years of service to the community and their continued efforts at international outreach, I ask that my colleagues join me today in honoring the Rotary Club of Mugello, Italy.

TRIBUTE TO GASPER MAGARIAN

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 1997

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Gasper Magarian. Mr. Magarian, a Fresno, CA attorney, has the distinction of being the oldest practicing attorney in the State of California.

As noted in a recent article from the Armenian General Benevolent Union magazine [AGBU], Magarian's family—like many other Armenian families in Fresno—arrived in America 100 years ago. His family immigrated to Massachusetts to escape the atrocities suffered under Ottoman Turkish persecution. Magarian was born in Billerica, MA, and moved to Fresno in 1904 with his parents. His brothers and sisters were all born after the family moved to Fresno.

His brothers and sisters range in age from 85–94 years old. Magarian, the oldest brother at age 97, is the only sibling still practicing in his current profession. He has voluntarily cut back on the amount of hours that he practices at the law firm of Heyman, Krikorian and Magarian, located in downtown Fresno. The Magarian name on the firm is that of his grandson Mark, but his 62-year-old son Donald—and Magarian himself—later joined in on the firm's ventures. Grandson Mark Magarian calls his grandfather, Gasper, "one of our most valuable assets." Others in the firm speak to the advantage to having someone around with 70 years of legal experience.

Magarian remarks that life for lawyers has changed since his earlier days. Magarian graduated from a local Fresno high school and attended Stanford University in 1919. At the time, there was no tuition at Stanford and incidental fees totaled about \$60. Magarian finished law school and was admitted to the California State Bar in 1926. He began to work for a San Francisco law firm, but eventually moved back to Fresno in 1934.

In the first 50 years of his practice, Magarian handled issues ranging from bankruptcy, divorce, land transfers, and criminal cases. Magarian also handled a varied workload of paid cases, while maintaining a pro bono caseload for the middle class and the poor. Throughout his career he has also maintained a close relationship with the Armenian community.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have Mr. Magarian practicing law in the 19th congressional district. His love for the legal profession and his perspective on life is both refreshing and inspirational. I congratulate him on his lifetime of accomplishments and ask my colleagues to join me in wishing him every success on his future endeavors.

EXTENDING STRUCTURED SETTLEMENT RULES TO WORKERS COMPENSATION

HON. JIM RAMSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 1997

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join today with Mr. SHAW and Mr. STARK

and other colleagues on the Ways and Means Committee from both sides of the aisle in introducing legislation to extend structured settlement rules under section 130 of the Internal Revenue Code to workers' compensation.

I am a strong supporter of structured settlements. I have seen firsthand in Minnesota how structured settlements can help victims of severe physical injuries put their lives back together in the wake of a disabling injury, help support their families, and instill some hope for the future.

Structured settlements give crucial financial security to victims and their families by providing an assured stream of payments into the future to cover medical expenses and basic living needs. Structured settlements also save taxpayer dollars by ensuring that injury victims will not be required to seek indigent care.

For all these reasons, Congress has sought to promote the use of structured settlements through specific tax rules that have been enacted in the Internal Revenue Code. Extending the Code section 130 structured settlement rules beyond physical injuries caused by torts to include physical injuries under workers' compensation would provide the same financial protection to victims who have suffered serious, long-term physical injuries in the workplace.

I understand the Treasury Department testified before Ways and Means in the last Congress that it does not oppose this proposal and sees no distinction for purposes of the structured settlement tax rules between physical injuries suffered from torts and physical injuries suffered in the workplace. I also understand the Joint Committee on Taxation estimated in the last Congress that the proposal would produce only a very minimal revenue loss.

I join with my colleagues in urging prompt enactment of this legislation.

HONORING BETSY BEAMF AND EMILY DUTTON

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 1997

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Betsy Beamf, of Princeton, IL, and Emily Dutton, of Lewiston, IL. This weekend they will receive the Girl Scouts Gold Award from the Kickapoo Council of Girl Scouts, and I congratulate them on this occasion.

The Girl Scouts Gold Award represents the highest honor in Girl Scouting and recognizes significant achievement in leadership, community service, career planning, and personal development. While Girl Scouting has provided these young adults a supportive setting in which to learn from and work with their peers in a group, Emily and Betsy have earned this award through their own individual commitment of over 50 hours of exceptional service.

Through her performance of plays for local youth, Betsy has fostered a greater appreciation for the world of theater and drama among the children in her community. Emily drew upon her artistic talents to design and create a mural in her school that promotes good sportsmanship. At a time when Americans nationwide have placed a renewed emphasis on community service as a way of improving our

society, Emily and Betsy exemplify the kind of dedication and commitment we need from people of all ages.

Mr. Speaker, we as a nation are enriched by the efforts of Betsy and Emily, and the thousands of children like them who give of themselves to benefit their communities each day. I hope that they are proud of themselves, and I am sure that their families take great pride in them. I encourage them to continue to take an active role in the community and wish them every success in the future.

CONGRATULATING HOLLIS CURL

HON. EARL F. HILLIARD

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday May 1, 1997

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer congratulations to one of the finest and most honorable journalists that I have ever had the pleasure to know, M. Hollis Curl of Camden, AL. Mr. Curl has just received the State of Alabama's highest journalism award, the Hector Award.

The Hector Award was given to Mr. Curl for the "Most Outstanding Performance by an Alabamian in Journalism." Mr. Curl is the publisher and editor of the Wilcox Progressive Era, located in Wilcox County, AL. This is not Mr. Curl's first taste of victory. This is the second time he has received this award and he is the only person ever to win it twice.

I am proud to say that I am a friend of Mr. Curl. I am no stranger of his love for journalism, and his quest to improve the community in which he lives. At a time when the President is calling on the Nation to become more active in voluntarism, Mr. Curl has already been a major community volunteer for over 30 years. He serves on the board of his country's hospital; president of the Gas Board for 15 years; led the effort to get his county a 911 emergency line; serves as the Charter Commander of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, and much, much more.

Above all, due to Mr. Curl's proactive journalism, we were able to work together to restore the ferry-boat service across the Alabama river which was disrupted by the KKK in the 1960's. Because of his due diligence, this too, will soon become reality.

Mr. Speaker. When it comes to talking about Mr. Hollis Curl, words fail me. Obviously, words never fail Hollis, and his second Hector Award says it all. Way to go, Hollis Curl.

THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

HON. JOEL HEFLEY

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 1997

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, our Nation's first call to prayer came in 1775 when the Continental Congress asked the Colonies to pray for wisdom in forming a nation. Since then, the call to prayer has continued throughout our history. In 1952, a joint resolution by Congress, signed by President Truman, declared an annual, National Day of Prayer. In 1988, the law was amended and signed by Presi-

dent Reagan, permanently setting the day as the first Thursday of every May.

Today is the National Day of Prayer.

We are celebrating in the Cannon caucus room all day—from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Military Chiefs of Staff, Cabinet Secretaries, Senators, and Representatives are gathering to ask for prayers from the people. You see, the National Day of Prayer belongs to all Americans of all faiths. It stands as a call to us to humbly come before God, seeking His guidance for our leaders and His grace upon us as a people.

Please join me today by stopping by the Cannon caucus room to celebrate this great event. It is our prayer that during this National Day of Prayer, America will again remember the trust that made this Nation great.

DOLLARS TO THE CLASSROOM

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 1997

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I come before the House today because I believe that one of the greatest challenges that faces our Nation today is the education of our children and grandchildren. Recently, a fifth grade student wrote to me commenting that "people are taking our parents for granted, because they're paying taxes which they assume are to schools, but most of the money doesn't make it to the classroom where it should be." I agree with this student.

Currently, we are failing the school children of America. We are failing their parents as we allow their hard-earned education tax dollars to be funneled through layers of bureaucracy. The problem with our education system today is not how much money we spend, but how we choose to spend it.

While it is unknown exactly what percentage of Federal education dollars reaches the classroom, a recent audit of New York City public schools found that only 43 percent of their local education budget reaches the classroom. Another study found that only 85 percent of funds administered by the U.S. Department of Education for elementary and secondary education reach the school district level. Even if 65 percent of Federal education funds presently reach the classroom, it still means that billions of dollars are not directly spent on children in the classroom.

For these reasons, today I am introducing the Dollars to the Classroom resolution. My Dollars to the Classroom resolution expresses the sense of the U.S. House of Representatives that Department of Education, State education departments, and local education agencies should spend more Federal education tax dollars for our Nation's children—in their classrooms.

For far too long, Americans' hard-earned tax dollars have gone to Federal bureaucrats and have churned through a Washington labyrinth—instead of rightfully being placed in the hands of someone who knows your child's name.

Of the \$15.4 billion which goes to elementary and secondary programs in the Federal Department of Education, the classroom may be lucky to see 65 percent of that. That means over \$5.4 billion is lost in the abyss of

Department studies, publications, and grant administration.

I believe Americans would rather see their dollars at work—providing more teachers and teacher aides, purchasing updated software and state-of-the-art microscopes, and even seeing that every American classroom is connected to the Internet and brought into our new Information Age.

The classroom is where the action is. The classroom is where knowledge grows and the learning takes place. Not in some stuffy Washington office—where miles upon miles of paperwork and publications are produced—and even teachers must pay if they want to benefit.

The Dollars to the Classroom resolution calls on the Department of Education to see that 90 percent of Department of Education elementary and secondary education funds get into the classrooms of this Nation—directly.

If this actually happened roughly \$1,800 would be added to each classroom budget across the United States. Even President Clinton has said, "We cannot ask the American people to spend more on education until we do a better job with the money we've got now." As he and Vice President GORE have said, the reinventing of public education begins not in the halls or offices of Washington, but in communities across the country. We must ask the fundamental questions about how dollars which are to go to the public school systems are spent.

Education dollars in the classroom can make a tremendous difference and can enhance a child's learning experience. I would like to share some comments from school children about the Dollars to the Classroom resolution. They have said that, "I support this bill because . . .

Our books are falling apart, so it is kind of hard to learn with them.

My Social Studies book was new in 1988. Hey, it's 1997, we need to get new books!

I think more of the taxes for education should go to the schools. We really need more money in our classroom because our teacher always has to buy things for our classroom with her own money.

We need to get more teachers so the children can get more education.

We need more money in the schools for things such as books, paper, posters and items (our teacher) needs to teach.

Many chairs are wobbly, the books are torn, in the winter, the classrooms are practically freezing. All of this makes it very difficult to learn. This bill will hopefully improve our learning.

I hope this bill is supported and becomes official. The classrooms in the U.S. need more things and equipment to help the kids.

Yes, let's help the kids. We have a moral responsibility to drastically improve our current education system for our children.

Mr. Speaker, for the sake of our Nation's kids—I call upon all of us to choose to put children first. I urge Members of the House to support the Dollars to the Classroom resolution. I thank the Speaker, and look forward to working with him during the 105th Congress on this important issue.

TRIBUTE TO THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF PARLIAMENTARIANS

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 1997

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Fresno Chapter of the American Institute of Parliamentarians. The American Institute of Parliamentarians has requested that California Governor Pete Wilson declare the month of April, "Parliamentary Emphasis Month."

Parliamentary procedure provides an accurate, impartial and timely means of arriving at the opinion of those present. The mission statement of the American Institute of Parliamentarians is: to foster, promote, and teach the highest standards of parliamentary procedure in keeping with both the principles of parliamentary law and the adopted parliamentary authority, and in accordance with the accepted system of rules for conducting business in an organizational body.

Among others, America was founded upon the principles of individuals rights, majority rule, and the promotion of a deliberative process for governing and decisionmaking procedures. Our third President, Thomas Jefferson, wrote the first manual on parliamentary practice in this country. Published in 1801, that manual has left an indelible mark on our history. The Rules of Order are an integral part of any properly functioning organization. Whether in the private sector, or at every level of government, the Rules of Order is a guide that continues to be utilized on a daily basis.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the American Institute of Parliamentarians for their adherence to and respect for parliamentary law. I congratulate the American Institute of Parliamentarians as they celebrate Parliamentary Emphasis Month, and ask my colleagues to join me in tribute to Fresno Chapter president James

Wilburn, committee co-chair's Paula Garner and Barbara Barstow, and the entire Fresno chapter, as they observe this milestone in their organization. I wish them continued success in this worthy endeavor.

CITIZENSHIP USA

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 1997

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, the Immigration and Naturalization Service [INS] has tested me time and again. Today, my patience has run out. My district in southern California has one of the largest concentrations of illegal aliens. INS claims to be working to remedy this problem. They are failing miserably.

This morning, I learned that the Citizenship USA Program, which is run by the INS, has failed to properly screen nearly 180,000 aliens. These aliens were hastily naturalized without adequate background checks. Many more submitted the fingerprints of another person to avoid triggering a hit by the FBI. How many criminals has the INS allowed to become a U.S. citizen? How many criminal aliens are lurking in our neighborhoods and preying on our children?

Mr. Speaker, yesterday I helped introduce legislation drafted by my colleague, ELTON GALLEGLY. This bill would expand a pilot program currently operating in Anaheim and Ventura Counties, CA, which requires 24-hour presence of INS agents at local jails in 100 counties with the highest concentration of illegal aliens.

Currently, our local law enforcement officials do not have the power to deport these criminal illegal aliens. This bill will place the proper authorities in the hands of our communities in order to send these criminal illegal aliens back over the border for good. In addition, because those who committed crimes are more likely to break the law again, this bill will pick up those who slipped through the cracks of the Citizenship USA Program. It is my hope that the INS will now correct the wrongs they have committed against law-abiding U.S. citizens. The INS must take appropriate action to deport those who are found to have submitted falsified documents to gain U.S. citizenship. It is the right thing to do for the safety of our children and the security of our neighborhoods. We must rid our streets of these criminal aliens.